

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Thomas S. Crumpton, Jr., District II
Rev. William S. “Bill” Rinehart, District III Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Oconee County Council met Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 3:00 pm in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members and Mr. Norton, County Attorney, present.

Press:

Members of the press notified (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV, WLOS TV, & WSNW Radio.

Members of the press present: Brett McLaughlin – Daily Journal, Dave Williams – Anderson Independent & Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier.

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association, Citizens for Recreation Center and the Oconee County Democratic Party.

Call to Order:

Chairman Ables called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Rinehart gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Lyles led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Minutes:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the minutes of the regular meeting held November 21, 2006 be adopted as printed.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Larry Linson addressed Council expressing his appreciation to Mr. Moore & Mr. Rinehart. He further addressed Council regarding the ACLU and prayer at Council Meetings, reassessment, appreciation to Mr. Hendricks regarding the savings on the proposed Department of Social Services Building, he further addressed Council regarding construction of the Seneca Library and proposed projects for next year.

Mr. Arlon Moore addressed Council regarding the Building Codes Department.

Mrs. Lynn Norton addressed Council regarding the Seneca Library and its proposed location.

Mr. George Cleveland addressed Council regarding prayer at Council Meetings.

Mr. Roger Roland addressed Council regarding prayer at Council Meetings.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding Building Codes, the ACLU and prayer at Council Meetings.

Emergency Disaster Preparedness Award:

Mr. Taylor Jones, Interim Director of Anderson County Emergency Services presented Mr. Henry Gordon, Oconee County Emergency Management Director with the runner-up IAEM Interagency Disaster Preparedness Award.

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2006-29:

At this time Council conducted a public hearing to receive written and/or oral comments regarding proposed Ordinance 2006-29, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY FROM A LEASE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO TITLE 4, CHAPTER 12 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED TO A FEE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976 AS AMENDED, AND APPROVING THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE INTERESTS OF PINE RIVER PLASTICS, INC. IN THE LEASE AGREEMENT TO PINE RIVER ACQUISITION, LLC; THE ENTERING INTO OF CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS INCLUDING THE AFORESAID FEE AGREEMENT AND PRESCRIBING MATTERS RELATED THERETO".

Public Hearing RE: Ordinance 2006-29 Continued:

There was no one present with written and/or oral comments regarding this proposed ordinance.

Upstate Alliance Update:

Mr. Jody Bryson, Vice President, Investor/Public Relations; Ms. Jennifer Noel, Vice President, Marketing & Ms. Yolanda Morton, Executive Assistant to the President/Investor Relations Specialist, Upstate Alliance presented the attached update in which they informed Council of the following:

2006 Work Program / Operating Budget

Alliance Corporate	\$ 11,511
Fund Raising/Investor Relations	\$ 161,945
Operations	\$ 357,278
Marketing	\$ 825,740
 Total Upstate Alliance 2006 Operating Budget	 \$1,356,475
 Public Funds:	 \$ 416,834
Private Funds:	\$ 942,306

There are ten upstate Counties and four upstate Cities that are public sector investors in the Upstate Alliance. The purpose of Upstate Alliance is to market the upstate to potential businesses and industries.

The target markets are automotive, advanced materials, life sciences, plastics & allied chemicals and logistics.

As of November 30, 2006 Upstate Alliance had 354 leads and prospects for businesses/industries in the upstate. If a potential business/industry is not suitable for the upstate, Upstate Alliance will work with other alliances to place that business/industry in South Carolina. (See attached information)

Seneca Library:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion that Council adopt on first reading an ordinance committing to bond funding in the amount of \$8,375,000 for a new Seneca Library, however, this motion died for lack of a second.

Sheriff (Detention Center):

Mr. Crumpton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that the attached maintenance agreement with DataWorks Plus for hardware and software support for the LiveScan fingerprint/mug shot photo system for the Detention Center be adopted.

PRT:

Mr. Rinehart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that \$19,340 Local Accommodation Tax Funds be approved for a Media Familiarization Trip to raise awareness of Oconee County and generate tourism through Pineapple Public Relations.

Road Paving:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 1 (Mr. Crumpton voting against) that the bid for road paving for fiscal year 2006-07 be awarded to Pickens Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,784,733.76 with a gravel cost of an estimated \$240,016.24 and a contingency of \$200,250 for a grand total of \$2,225,000. (See attached bid sheet)

Cherokee Heritage, Interpretive & Cultural Center:

Upon recommendation of Mr. Hendricks, County Administrator, the attached request for an endorsement from County Council regarding a Cherokee Heritage, Interpretive & Cultural Center at Keowee Towne Landing was assigned to the Planning & Economic Development Committee for a recommendation to full Council.

Ordinance 2006-27:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crumpton, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-27, “AN ORDINANCE TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK WITH PICKENS COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS FOR 1976, SECTION 4-1-170 ET SEQUITUR, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH PICKENS COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, AND THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAX TO THE COUNTIES AND RELEVANT TAXING ENTITIES” be adopted on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2006-29:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 5 – 0 that Ordinance 2006-29, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY FROM A LEASE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO TITLE 4, CHAPTER 12 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED TO A FEE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO TITLE 12, CHAPTER 44 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; THE ENTERING INTO OF CERTAIN COVENANTS AND AGREEMENTS AND THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS INCLUDING THE AFORESAID FEE AGREEMENT AND PRESCRIBING MATTERS RELATED THERETO” be adopted on third and final reading.

Council Committee Reports:

There were no Council Committee reports.

Administrator Report:

Mr. Hendricks informed Council that Governor Sanford has declared December 22, 2006 as a holiday and therefore, it will be a holiday for the County as we follow the State schedule.

Council Remarks:

Mr. Moore stated he did not realize that prayer at the Council Meetings would be such an issue and he would not stop praying in Jesus’ name, however he would not be on Council the coming year.

Mr. Rinehart expressed his regret at being unable to secure funding for the Seneca Library and urged Council to find a way to fund the library. Mr. Rinehart also urged the audience to treat Council Members with respect. Further, he stated he was not trying to advance a religious agenda, but praying as he believed when giving the invocation.

Mr. Moore asked the Administrator to look into an addition to the Seneca Library, however he did not vote in for the construction of a new library at this time due to uncertainty of the future and the fact that such an endeavor would deplete the County’s bonding capacity. Mr. Moore also stated he would like to see the new library constructed at some time in the future at the proposed location.

Mr. Crumpton expressed his appreciation to Mr. Moore & Mr. Rinehart for their service to the citizens of the County as Council Members.

Council Remarks Continued:

Mr. Ables presented “Certificates of Appreciation” to Mr. Moore and Mr. Rinehart for their service to the citizens of Oconee County as Council Members.

Mr. Lyles also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Moore and Mr. Rinehart for their service to the citizens of Oconee County as Council Members.

December 19, 2006 Meeting:

Mr. Ables announced there would be no Council Meeting on December 19, 2006 and the next meeting of Council would be January 2, 2007 at 3:00 pm with the Oath of Office be administered to the two new Council Members at 2:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Adjourn:

Adjourn: 4:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green,
Clerk to Council